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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 1902

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MPOL NATO PO
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION; AHG MEETING MARCH 31

REF: STATE 070842 (DTG 310053Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: IN A REMARKABLY PRODUCTIVE PLEDGING SESSION MARCH 31, MARRED ONLY BY PERSISTENT REFUSAL OF NETHERLANDS TO DONATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT, THE AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND TURKEY EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON NATIONAL PLANS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PORTUGUESE NATO BRIGADE. US AND FRG OFFERED TO COVER MAJOR BRIGADE EQUIPMENT NEEDS, INCLUDING, FOR FRG, PAYMENT FOR UPGRADING TANKS TO MODERN STATUS. CANADA AND (SURPRISINGLY) NORWAY AND UK OFFERED CONTRIBUTIONS THAT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS BETWEEN "TOKEN" AND "SMALL." BELGIUM IS STILL POSITIVELY CONSIDERING PORTUGUESE LIST. DENMARK, ITALY AND NETHERLANDS COULD OFFER ONLY TRAINING, BUT DENMARK WILL RECONSIDER, IN VIEW
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OF WIDE ALLIED PARTICIPATION. NETHERLANDS WAS, IN EFFECT, ODD-MAN-OUT, REISITING PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON POLICY GROUNDS. SHAPE WILL MONITOR TECHNICAL COORDINATION OF EQUIPMENT TO BE PROVIDED. IS WILL NOW ISSUE REVISED EQUIPMENT LIST WITH OUTSTANDING BRIGADE NEEDS FOR FURTHER MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE MANIFESTLY MANAGEABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN OPENING MARCH 31 AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, CHAIRMAN (ASYG MUMFORD) RECALLED

PRESENTATIONS OF GENERAL COSTA GOMES DURING THE FALL NATO MULTILATERAL REVIEW, BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE RESTRUCTURED ARMED FORCES, AND NOTED ALLIED AGREEMENT THAT PORTUGAL REQUIRES EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HER FORCE GOALS. NOTING THAT A POSITIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO PORTUGAL'S NEEDS WOULD HAVE MAJOR POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN PORTUGAL AND FOR THE CONCEPT OF ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY, MUMFORD SAID THAT NATIONS HAD NOW HAD TIME TO STUDY THE PORTUGUESE LIST OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS. HE ASKED THE PORTUGUESE REP FOR COMMENT.

2. PORTUGUESE REP (CATARINO) ASKED THAT THE CURRENT MEETING FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ABOVE ALL ON THE NEEDS OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMY BRIGADE, AND SECONDARILY ON THE AIR FORCE, LEAVING DISCUSSION OF NAVY NEEDS TO A LATER DATE. BRIEFLY REVIEWING THE PROGRESS OF THE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORT, CATARINO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR EQUIPMENT ALREADY CONTRIBUTED, ADDING THAT SOME OF IT WILL BE PARADED IN LISBON ON APRIL 25. THE US AND FRG, CATARINO SAID, HAD ALREADY NOTIFIED PORTUGAL OF WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT; HE HOPED OTHERS WOULD BE INDUCED TO EMULATE THEIR EXAMPLE, TO PUT AN ALLIANCE STAMP ON ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH WOULD BE USED IN THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE. CATARINO SAID THAT A FAILURE IN THIS EFFORT COULD POSE A "VERY REAL DANGER" IN LISBON, SINCE ELEMENTS IN PORTUGUESE SOCIETY WHO ARE ILL-DISPOSED TO NATO WOULD RIDICULE THOSE WHO

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HAD TRUSTED THEIR ALLIES. CATARINO ADDED THAT LACK OF RESULTS WOULD ALSO CREATE CHAOS IN PORTUGUESE FORCE PLANNING; TIMELY DELIVERIES WERE, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT. FINALLY, CATARINO NOTED THAT THOUGH HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR TRAINING ASSISTANCE, PRIORITY IN ASSISTANCE MUST GO TO EQUIPMENT AID.

3. US REP (BGEN SEIGLE), DRAWING FROM REFTEL, REMINDED THE AHG OF EQUIPMENT THE US HAD ALREADY DELIVERED TO PORTUGAL, AND CIRCULATED A LIST OF EQUIPMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S FY-77 PROGRAM, NOTING THAT TRAINING ASSISTANCE WAS ADDITIONAL TO THIS. US REP DESCRIBED US WILLINGNESS TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO PORTUGAL (PARA 5, REFTEL), AND EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT ALL ALLIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE.

4. FRG REP (CAPT WELZ) NOTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO GRANT DEFENSE AID TO PORTUGAL, AND, CAUTIONING THAT IT SHOULD BE "CLOSELY HELD," DESCRIBED FOLLOWING PROGRAM OF AID TO BE APPROVED BY "RESPONSIBLE PARLIAMENTARY BODIES": VALUE OF DEFENSE AID WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT DM 25 MILLION, INCLUDING (A) VALUE OF REQUIRED BATTLE TANKS AND ARTILLERY, (B) VALUE OF SOME SURPLUS MATERIEL, INCLUDING OVER 430 TRUCKS OF DIFFERENT TYPES AND VARYING NUMBERS OF AMBULANCES, TANK TRANSPORTERS AND MACHINE GUNS, (C) "THE COST OF THE

POSSIBLY NECESSARY CONVERSION OF THE M48A2 BATTLE TANKS TO THE 105 MM GUN, US RADIO CABLING AND DIESEL ENGINES," (D) TRANSPORT OF MATERIEL TO PORTUGAL, AND (E) PERSONNEL COSTS OF TRAINING ON BATTLE TANKS AND GUNS FOR SIX MONTHS.

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FRG REP NOTED FURTHER THAT COVERSON OF THE TANKS HAD NOT YET BEEN FINALLY DECIDED, "BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN." HE REMARKED BRIEFLY ON TIME SCHEDULES FOR DELIVERIES OF EQUIPMENT, AND NOTED THAT BY TAKING THESE DECISIONS, HIS GOVERNMENT HAD EXPRESSED ITS "FIRM POLITICAL WILL" TO MAKE AVAILABLE MILITARY AID TO PORTUGAL TO THE EXTENT DESCRIBED. FRG REP CIRCULATED TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT, WHICH WE HAVE FORWARDED IN USNATO 1885.

5. CANADIAN REP (COL OLSON) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES ALSO RECOGNIZED GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THIS VENTURE, AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS STILL REVIEWING THE PORTUGUESE LIST. CANADA COULD NOW COMMIT ITSELF, HE SAID, TO PROVIDING TWO ITEMS: 18 60 MM MORTARS, AND 493 3.5-INCH ROCKET LAUNCHERS. HE SAID THAT OTHER ASSISTANCE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, POSSIBLY RADIONS, AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT NEEDED DETAILS ABOUT THE TYPE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF RADION EQUIPMENT REQUIRED. NORWEGIAN REP (HEIDENSTROEM) SAID THAT HIS
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GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE WITHIN ITS DEFENSE BUDGET. HE COULD STATE THAT, WITH REGARD TO THE BRIGADE, THE GON COULD OFFER SOME EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS NOT MODERN, BUT IN GOOD CONDITION, AND ALSO

SPARE PARTS. HE STATED SPECIFIC WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE RADIONS AND 75 MM RECOILLESS REIFLES. UK REP SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DESIRED TO BE OF MOST HELP TO THE PORTUGUESE NAVY, BUT HAD IDENTIFIED SEVERAL ITEMS FOR THE ARMY: SPECIFICALLY, ONE FLOATING BRIDGE, 9 15-MAN INFLATABLE LANDING BOATS, AND 6 THREE-MAN RECONNAISSANCE BOATS. BELGIAN REP (COL QUANIERS) STATED THAT THE BELGIAN GENERAL STAFF AND SEFVICE STAFFS WERE STILL REVIEWING THE PORTUGUESE LIST FROM A "POSITIVE VIEWPOINT," BUT COULD NOT SAY WHEN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DECIDE ON THE TYPE AND LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IT COULD PROVIDE. NETHERLANDS (COL STEENART), ITALIAN (COL TOMMAZZOLLI) AND DANISH (BELLING) REPS EXPRESSED THEIR SYMPATHY WITH THE GOALS OF THE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORT, BUT STATED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS COULD PROVIDE ONLY TRAINING. NETHERLANDS REP ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTNACE TO ANYONE, AS A MATTER OF POLICY.

6. CHAIRMAN BRIEFLY RECAPPED THE FOREGOING ASSISTANCE OFFERS, AND, NOTING THAT ITALY WAS INDEED IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT BELGIUM WAS POSITIVELY CONSIDERING THE PORTUGUESE REQUEST, ASKED THE DANISH AND NETHERLANDS REPS WHETHER THE COMMITTEE HAD HEARD A FINAL STATEMENT FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS REGARDING WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE. DANISH REP REPLIED THAT HE WOULD REPORT THE VERY POSITIVE THINGS HE HAD HEARD TO HIS AUTHORITIES, WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD RECONSIDER. NETHERLANDS REP REITERATED THAT NETHERLANDS DOES NOT PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AS A MATTER OF POLICY. EXPRESSING SOME EXASPERATION AT THIS ANSWER, CHAIRMAN NOTED ITEMS ON PORTUGUESE BRIGADE LIST THAT ARE NOT WEAPONS, E.G., AMBULANCES, NOTING THE NEED FOR ALL ECONOMICALLY ADVANCED

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ALLIES TO PARTICIPATE. PORTUGUESE REP, NOTING THAT THE ALLIANCE HAD MADE A VERY GOOD START, AND HIS SPECIAL HAPPINESS WITH THE GERMAN TANK UPGRADING DECISION, ASKED THE NETHERLANDS REP NOT TO CONSIDER AID TO PORTUGAL IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS AID TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. HOLLAND AND PORTUGAL HAD A COMMON THREAT, HE SAID, AND NEEDED A COLLECTIVE POSTURE IN DEFENDING AGAINST IT; ASSISTANCE WOULD HELP NETHERLANDS, AS WELL AS PORTUGAL. NETHERLANDS REP REJVINED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, AND THAT HIS COUNTRY RANKED FIRST IN THE WORLD IN PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION OF AID TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID THE NETHERLANDS COULD BEST CONTRIBUTE IN A MILITARY WAY BY EQUIPPING ITS OWN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE. NOTING THE MODEST EQUIPMENT NEEDS OS THE PORTUGUESE BRIGADE, US REP URGED NETHERLANDS REP TO ASK HIS GOVERNMENT FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ITS POLICY. TRAINING COULD BE OF NO VALUE, HE SAID, UNLESS THERE WAS EQUIPMENT WAITING FOR TRAINED PERSONNEL TO RETURN TO. HE NOTED THAT THE US

CONGRESS WOULD LIKELY TAKE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER ALLIES INTO ACCOUNT IN FUNDING US ASSISTANCE, AND ASKED THAT HIS COLLEAGUES CONVEY THIS TO THEIR AUTHORITIES. CHAIRMAN TERMED THIS A "JUSTIFIABLY STRONG" INTERVENTION, AND NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD HEARD GOOD NEWS, THERE WAS A MODEST AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT REMAINING ON THE BRIGADE LIST. HE HOPED THAT ALLIES WOULD FILL IN THESE GAPS.

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7. US REP THEN NOTED DESIRABILITY OF SOME SORT OF AN "UMBRELLA DOCUMENT" FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WHICH ALLIES WOULD PROVIDE TO PORTUGAL. HE CIRCULATED LANGUAGE OF PARA 6, REFTEL AS AN ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF A STATEMENT THE ALLIES MIGHT MAKE, AND ASKED FOR INSTRUCTED COMMENT ON IT AT THE NEXT MEETING.

8. CHAIRMAN NOTED NEED FOR TECHNICAL COORDINATION OF EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE OFFERS, AND ASKED SHAPE REP TO TAKE THIS ON. SHAPE REP (BGEN SCHWEITZER) AGREED TO DO THIS, AND NOTED THAT HE WAS STRUCK BY HOW FAR THE ALLIANCE HAD COME IN PROVIDING EQUIPMENT, YET HOW FAR THE ALLIANCE IS STILL AWAY FROM PROVIDING ALL THE EQUIPMENT NEEDS OF THE BRIGADE. HE ECHOED THE US REP'S VIEWS ON THE NEED TO SET ASIDE POLICY CONSTRAINTS ON PROVISION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, NOTING THAT ANY CONTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE SMALEER ALLIES WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AND POLITICALLY VALUABLE.

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9. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT VERY LITTLE HAD BEEN SAID CONCERN-

ING AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT NEEDS. NOTING THAT THE US EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDED 1 C130 AIRCRAFT, SPARES AND SUPPORT, AS WELL AS F86 ENGINES AND TRAINER AIRCRAFT ALREADY PROVIDED, CHAIRMAN ASKED NORWEGIAN REP FOR ANY REACTION TO A RECENT REUTERS REPORT THAT NORWAY WOULD DONATE 100 F5E AIRCRAFT. NORWEGIAN REP SAID THAT HE COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE REUTERS REPORT, BUT THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUEESE AIR FORCE AND NAVY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

10. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE MEET AGAIN AFTER A SHORT INTERVAL, DURING WHICH A REVISED LIST, WITH REMAINING BRIGADE EQUIPMENT NEEDS, WOULD BE PUBLISHED. HE NOTED ALSO THAT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE, AFTER THE NEXT MEETING, TO ISSUE AN INTERIM REPORT TO PERMREPS, AND POSSIBLY THAT PERMREPS MIGHT WISH TO FURTHER REPORT TO MINISTERS AT THE SPRING DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING. PORTUGUESE REP SAID THAT HE WOULD FAVOR A REPORT TO MINISTERS ON THE SUBJECT. US REP, NOTING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING UNINSTRUCTED, NOTED THAT MINISTERS MIGHT ALREADY HAVE SOME NEGATIVE THINGS ON THEIR PLATE FOR THE SPRING DPC MINISTERIAL, AND THAT THE FIRST JOB OF THE AHG WAS TO TACKLE THE PORTUGUESE BRIGADE EQUIPMENT LIST, AND SEE TO IT THAT ALL NEEDED EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED. COMMENT: WE MIGHT BE INCLINED TO FAVOR A REPORT TO DPC MINISTERS IF THE PROMISING START WE SAW REFLECTED HERE PRESERVES ITS MOMENTUM SO THAT MOST BRIGADE NEEDS ARE MET. OTHERWISE, ANY REPORT TO MINISTERS WOULD BE PREMATURE. ALSO, WE ARE CONCERNED, THAT THE AHG MIGHT ALSO HAVE TO INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT THE STATUS OF ALLIANCE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, AND THAT THIS MIGHT PROVIDE A MINISTERIAL PLATFORM FOR DIVISIVE STATEMENTS ON RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES. END COMMENT.

1. FINALLY, CHAIRMAN ASKED AHG REPS TO COME TO NEXT MEETING INSTRUCTED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SOME SORT OF PUBLIC CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT REGARDING ALLIED ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. US REP RESPONDED THAT HE WAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED ON THIS POINT, AND THAT THE THOUGHTS REFLECTED IN THE TEXT HE HAD CIRCULATED (PARA 7) WERE THOSE THE US WOULD FAVOR IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

12. GENERAL COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NETHERLANDS REP'S STUBBORN PERFORMANCE, WE WERE MOST PLEASED WITH THE SUBSTANCE AND TONE OF THIS MEETING. WE BELIEVE THE REVISED BRIGADE EQUIPMENT LIST WILL SHOW REMAINING PORTUGUESE EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO BE QUITE MANAGEABLE. AT THE NEXT MEETING, WE PROPOSE WE BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO UNVEIL TENTATIVE US THINKING CONCERNING FY-78 MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. IN THE INTERIM, AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE REVISED EQUIPMENT LIST, WE WOULD PROPOSE FURTHER BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH THE ALLIES, WITH A VIEW

TO FILLING OUT REMAINING HOLES IN THE LIST. WE WILL
FORWARD OUR MORE DETAILED COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE REQUEST
FOR THE NEXT MEETING WITH THE REVISED LIST. END COMMENT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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